

ARTICLE REPRODUCED  
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## Cop-Out on Campus: The Chancellor & the CIA

**T**hose of us who want CIA recruiters barred from American campuses owe a debt to Amy Carter. The former president's daughter gave the issue national footing by willing to be arrested for civil disobedience at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Carter was one of a group protesting the university's giving space to CIA job recruiters.

Carter's involvement prompted news stories, and those evoked responses from university officials. Chancellor Joseph Duffey wrote a Dec. 23 letter to *The New York Times* defending his school's invitation to the CIA.

Duffey kept his liberal credentials in seeming good order with the mandatory disclaimer that his administration "does not defend or justify the CIA record." He took a cop-out in the we-respect-diversity argument: We "take seriously the idea of a free, open and pluralistic campus." Duffey stressed that the school has trustees who "have affirmed the right of students to inquire about careers of their own choosing."

In all this high-sounding burble, Duffey never came close to the gut issue: To what point must his or any university be pushed before it gags and retches at a recruiter's record and says no, stay away. Information gathering is legitimate. Subversion and violence as CIA policy are wrong.

Duffey wants it both ways. He's no defender of the CIA, but he'll still cut a deal to let it on campus. How many Nicaraguan harbors must the CIA mine, how many assassination squads must it deploy, how much covert terror must it market before university officials say they are not in the business of nurturing young people for those kinds of trades?

The issue isn't free speech but a free ride. Allowing CIA recruiters into a university setting gives them entitlement to academic values that the agency is proud to proclaim it does not believe in or practice:

openness, solving international conflicts through diplomacy not lawlessness, the notion that other countries have the right to be let alone. A place like the University of Massachusetts becomes another CIA front. It affords the agency the pretense that it's just another friendly campus visitor looking for bright minds to keep America safe.

Officials like Duffey who go along with the guise betray their students. Few of the young have had the time to develop the critical skills to learn the full dirtiness of the agency's history. A large number of students seeing the CIA job booth at the career center trustingly assume that the agency is an employer that espouses the ideals of the university. Why else would the university allow it to be there?

To act as an employment agency for the CIA is different from letting its officials on campus to lecture. Let the agency be a big man on campus in those ways. Students with functioning nostrils or a library card to look up the CIA's history can turn the lecture into an experience of self-tutored enlightenment. That experience fits within "the idea of a free, open and pluralistic campus" in a way that the recruitment booth does not.

What if the Mayflower Madam, the Mafia, the Ku Klux Klan or the KGB wanted a chance to recruit students at a university run by a chancellor who says he does "not defend or justify" their records? Would he provide space and tell students "to inquire about careers of their own choosing?" No, he would tell them what, with more spine and less fake liberalism, he should tell the CIA: Go to the newspaper classifieds, your help-wanted ads, and don't dare forget that a university is where we develop minds, not spies and assassins.

If the government is running low on finding people with a calling to the CIA, let the agency use its reputed ingenuity to secure an off-campus recruitment center. Television commercials are available. The same ad agencies that gussie military

careers as an idyllic life of service and adventure should be able to beautify the CIA art of training Nicaraguan contras to rape women and burn hospitals.

Critics of Carter and her fellow protesters say that their anti-CIA demonstrations were disruptive. Perhaps. But picking on the kids because they weren't as impeccable in their civil disobedience as Henry David Thoreau gives the CIA another free ride. This is the agency that a former director, Stansfield Turner, said "is not trained to operate within the constraints of American law." In "The Game of Nations," Miles Copeland, a former CIA agent, wrote that behind "the solid front of high morality . . . we are in fact capable of matching the Soviets perfidy for perfidy."

A CIA official reports that the agency gets to 200 universities a year. She wouldn't say how many campus protests have occurred. That bit of top-secret intelligence will have to be guessed.

Conjecture isn't needed to understand that the CIA goes to campuses for more than jobs. It hunts also for respectability. Too many universities—about 200—have forgotten that their function is as much to defy the government in its worst aspects as to support it in its best.